

T H E W E S L E Y A N .

For the Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, &c.

"HOLD FAST THE FORM OF SOUND WORDS."—SCRIPTURE.

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Wesleyan Missions.

GREAT ANNUAL MEETING.

ON Monday, April 29th, the ANNUAL MEETING of the WESLEYAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY was held in Exeter Hall, London. The attendance was, as usual, numerous and respectable; indeed, every part of the spacious Hall was well occupied. The proceedings commenced a little before eleven o'clock, when the Rev Dr. Bunting gave out two verses of the hymn—"From all that dwell below the skies,"—after which the Rev. Thomas Jackson, President of the Conference, engaged in prayer.

Dr. BUNTING said—The Society will be happy to know, that we are favoured to-day with the presence of a gentleman, whom, on former occasions, we have desired and expected to see, but who was then prevented by providential dispensations from meeting our wishes. (Applause) I can assure him, that in reference to those dispensations, to which I will not further allude, he had the most affectionate and sincere sympathy of the persons who assembled at our meetings, and that our humble and earnest prayers were offered up to Almighty God on his behalf. (Hear, hear.) To-day he is with us; and I am most happy that the chair is to be occupied by a gentleman whom we all esteem, not only for his private worth, but for those christian principles which he has always shown himself willing to profess and to advocate in his public and senatorial character, (loud applause.)—a gentleman whom we esteem as one of the leading advocates in parliament for the sanctification of the Christian Sabbath, (applause,)—a gentleman whom we honour and esteem as the uncompromising advocate of those Protestant Principles (great cheering) with which this Missionary Society will never be ashamed or afraid to avow, that it considers spiritual religion throughout the world to be essentially identified. (Applause.) I have the honour to announce that John Pemberton Plumtre, Esq., member of parliament for East Kent, will now take the chair. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. PLUMTRE on assuming the chair, was greeted with warm applause. He proceeded to address the meeting to the following effect:—My christian friends, if I have, as our worthy and much-esteemed friend has told you, been prevented on two previous occasions, by afflictive dispensations, from meeting you in this Hall, I trust that those very dispensations, —accompanied, I would humbly hope, by the grace of God,—have taught me more and more to prize

those great objects which you have in view in your assembling together this day. (Hear, hear.) And what are those objects, but to publish to the world the knowledge of Jesus Christ, and the great salvation that is by him? This is, indeed, a simple, but an unspeakably sublime and important object. I trust you feel the great importance of that wisdom which this, and similar societies, are seeking to disseminate; —not the wisdom of this world, which cometh to nought,—(though that, indeed, we by no means despise, when it is founded upon, and consecrated by, the word of God.)—but the knowledge of the only living and true God, and of Jesus Christ whom he hath sent. (Hear, and applause.) This wisdom is, to its possessor, at once honour, and riches, and happiness, and life everlasting. With this treasure, the poor African is rich indeed; with this wisdom the benighted Hindoo is indeed enlightened. Without this treasure, and without this wisdom, the greatest prince is a beggar, the most profound philosopher is in darkness; but with this wisdom, and with this treasure, the poor African, the wild New Zealander, and the benighted Hindoo, may look to the Saviour, and say—

Without thee poor, give what thou wilt beside;
And with thee rich, take what thou wilt away.

(Applause.) I have, with much interest, my christian friends, surveyed the fields of your labours; and I believe they may be almost said to be co-extensive with the world itself. I look with great interest, and with the highest satisfaction, upon that fervent charity which seems to prevail among your missionaries, and among the members of your body; and I hail with gratitude, and with, I trust, unfeigned thankfulness to the great Lord of the harvest, that large measure of his grace and blessing with which he has been pleased to accompany your exertions. Attached as I am, conscientiously, to the principle of an established religion, (loud applause,) and to the religion that is established in this our happy and privileged country, (applause,)—for though there is much of evil and much of trouble in the midst of it, yet a happy and a privileged country I must esteem it in the main, especially when I compare it with other countries of the world,—I say, attached conscientiously as I am to the established religion of this our land, I am free and candid to say, that I could not occupy the situation to which your kindness has called me, did I not believe that I am now in the midst of a body of Christians, whose great leading principle it is to render unto Cæsar the things that are Cæsar's, (loud applause,) and unto God the things that are God's.

M A S C O L O R S A F E T Y A F I L M